

to improve the plan, as may be provided by the General Assembly. The balance in the Health Benefits Reserve Fund may be transferred from time to time to the Public Employee Health Benefit Fund to provide for any deficiency occurring therein.

The Public Employee Health Benefit Fund and the Health Benefit Reserve Fund shall be deposited with the State Treasurer and invested as provided in G.S. 147-69.2 and 147-69.3.

(b) Disbursement from the Public Employee Health Benefit Fund may be made by warrant drawn on the State Treasurer by the Executive Administrator, or the Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees may by contract authorize the Claims Processor to draw the warrant.

(c) Separate and apart from the special funds authorized by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, there shall be a Public Employee Long-Term Care Benefit Fund if the long-term care benefits provided by Part 4 of this Article are administered on a self-insured basis."

Section 4. G.S. 135-39.6A reads as rewritten:

"§ 135-39.6A. *Premiums set.*

(a) The Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees shall, from time to time, establish premium rates for the Comprehensive Major Medical Plan except as they may be established by the General Assembly in the Current Operations Appropriations Act, and establish regulations for payment of the premiums. Premium rates shall be established for coverages where Medicare is the primary payer of health benefits separate and apart from the rates established for coverages where Medicare is not the primary payer of health benefits.

(b) The Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees shall establish separate premium rates for the long-term care benefits provided by Part 4 of this Article if the benefits are administered on a self-insured basis."

Section 5. G.S. 135-39.8 reads as rewritten:

"§ 135-39.8. *Rules and regulations.*

The Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees may issue rules and regulations to implement ~~Parts 2 and 3~~ 2, 3, and 4 of this Article. Rules and regulations of the Board of Trustees shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees. The Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees shall provide a written description of the rules and regulations issued under this section to all employing units, all health benefit representatives, the oversight team provided for in G.S. 135-39.3, all relevant health care providers affected by a rule or regulation, and to any other parties requesting a written description and approved by the Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees to receive a description on a timely basis."

Section 6. G.S. 135-40.7 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(19) Charges for services covered by the long-term care benefit provisions of Part 4 of this Article."

Section 7. Article 3 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 4. Long-Term Care Benefits.

"§ 135-41. Undertaking.